Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)* : There have been failures also due to drought in those areas in some years.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam)* : In some years when there is scarcity of water, this has happened. By the extension of the Mulathura system, this areas can be fed with irrigation water. The success of the second crop is guaranteed. That is the important point.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)* : I shall look into that question.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam)* : The Government can make it very clear when undertaking the extension of this system that they will be supplied with water only in the months of Kanni and Thulam and not in the months of Vrischigam and Dhanu. On that basis, I think the Government can safely undertake this extension prayed for in this motion. I only wish to say Sir, that the Government should take up this question very seriously and should pay the attention that it deserves.

The motion, by leave, withdrawn

Mr. President : Now the question is that an amount of Rs. 16,31,431 minus Rs. 4 be sanctioned under 29 Public Works.

Motion put and carried

20. Public Works—Cranganur Rs. 16,273

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)* : I rise to move for Rs. 16,273 under 20-Public Works—Cranganur.

Motion put and carried

23. Medical—Rs. 7,00,824

Rao Sahib Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer)* : I rise to move for an allotment of Rs. 7,00,824 under 23-Medical. I request the House may be pleased to grant it.

CUT MOTION No. 38

Need to House all lepers in asylums

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)* : Sir, the cut motion is.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 34,826 for Medical Salary by Re. 1.* The object of the motion *is to impress upon the House the need to house all lepers in asylums.*

It is well known that lepers are wandering about everywhere. I may shortly state the position. It is unnecessary to make any speech. The lepers are roaming about everywhere. In Ernakulam I have seen a leper barber. It was only the other day that lepers were seated closely jammed together in a motor bus. In fact I complained at the Police Station, but nothing was done. In the office of the Assistant Supplies Officer at Trichur, the other day, I found a leper coming with a ration card for getting rice. I am not putting any particular blame on anybody. I only say that lepers are roaming about freely. In ancient days religion strongly prohibited by segregation the lepers from going to places of public resort. In Palestine in ancient days they had to carry bells and ring them when they went about. Those who have read Ben Hur will know that. They had to ring bells to announce that they were going to a particular place. That was found to be inhuman. In the present days, the civilised method is to treat them in proper asylums. To say that we are treating them is not enough. We are adopting a foolish policy in trying to laddle out water to prevent a flood, without trying to stop it at the place of origin. Prevention is always better than cure and I would request the Hon'ble Chief Medical Officer to go into this question. We have got a committee for Beggar Relief and this morning we have discussed this question in connection with beggar relief. I would say never come forward on behalf of the Government and tell us in mournful numbers that money is not available. I tell you, you should have enough sense of proportion to see that we abolish our Cochin House at Delhi, our Tullock Gardens in Madras, and our Elkhill House and Springfield Palace in the Nilgiris and provide money for this *(Hear, hear)*. I only say, put first things first. Provide for your children, I am speaking to the mother Government. Provide for your leper children before you provide for your splendid palaces outside the State, or even for your public gardens inside the State. This is all that I have to say. In submitting this cut motion to the House, I have only to point out that the Government has already allotted 50,000 rupees for the begger problem and my request is that the first consideration be given to leper beggars in the State.

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